

Real St. Nicholas Of 4th Century

St. Nicholas is peculiarly associated with Christmas and gift-giving. His mortal existence is reported to have ended three centuries ago with three purposes of gold.

Historically—as the Archbishop of Myra, Nicholas was a member of the council of Nicea. In 325 A. D., Constantine the Great called together the theologians of the Christian world in the first complete general council of the entire Christian church.

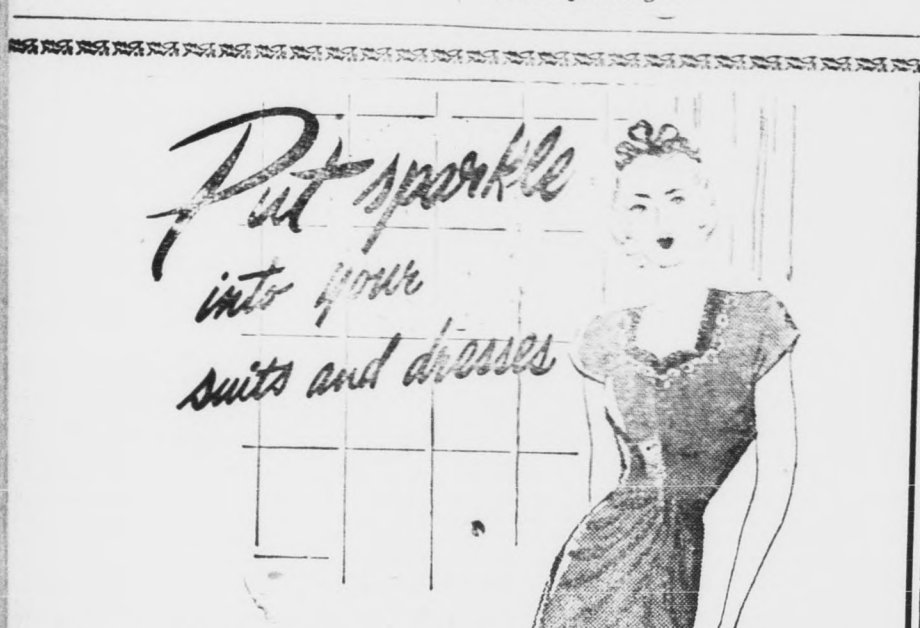
The council, assembled near Constantinople, and presided over by the still unbaptized Constantine, proclaimed the first exact definition of Christian teaching—as embodied in the Nicene Creed—and marks the beginning of Christianity as it is understood today.

Christmas Was At One Time Illegal

The Puritans disliked the celebration of Christmas, preferring their own celebration of "Thanksgiving."

In 1659 the high court of Massachusetts held that "anybody who is found observing, by abstention from labor, feasting, or any other way, such day as Christmas Day shall for each and every offence be fined five shillings."

Gives Strength to Wrestler
In Holstein it is believed that it is not only a cure for all green rounds, but that it will insure success in the chase and give strength to the wrestler, if mistletoe is worn.



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THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN, APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

A Rare Bird or Not?

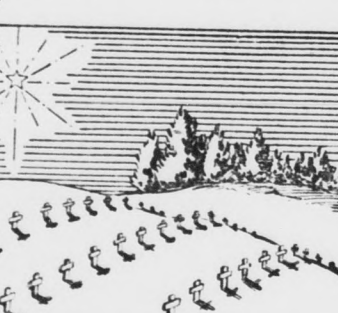


This fierce young bird is a puzzle to birdhouse keepers at Chicago Zoo. It recently was imported from Colombia, South America, and may be either a specimen of the very rare Devil's hawk eagle, or a common Friedmann's hawk. No one can be sure until it grows up and develops adult plumage.

Leading Carols

By LYN CONNELLY

A SONG which made its appearance in 1942 entitled "White Christmas" is in its fourth year and will on its way to permanent recognition as a Christmas favorite.



The amazing popularity of "White Christmas" as a yuletide song reached its peak last year when a poll conducted to establish the favorite carol of servicemen, revealed that 22 per cent of the votes went to this early war song written especially for the occasion by Irving Berlin, graduate of Tin Pan Alley.

The birth of the song was entirely by accident despite rumors to the contrary which attribute its conception to the war. Actually, it was composed in 1940. A Hollywood studio had an idea for a motion picture to be called "Holiday Inn," co-starring Fred Astaire and Bing Crosby. The theme of the picture was based on the holidays of the year and a song was needed to represent each holiday. Irving Berlin was contracted for the composition. The picture, released in 1942, was synonymous with our second wartime Christmas, and in that year the song sold one million copies in four months. Although nothing is done on the part of the publishers to exploit the song, it automatically rings the register each year as the holiday season approaches. Berlin calls it his favorite song, with the exception of his "God Bless America" written during World War I. "It's difficult to predict a song's future," says Berlin, "but judging from its past, I would say 'White Christmas' has a very good chance of becoming a permanent song along with other Christmas carols."

LITTLE OL' SANTA

The little ol' Santa propped under our tree . . . is little the worse for wear . . . he's lost a leg and an arm, you see . . . but no one seems to care. Not that we're unsympathetic, rather, we are just a bit nostalgic.

Time was when our Santa, bright and new, benignly welcomed Tommy and Sue . . . as they tiptoed down stairs to see . . . their presents spread beneath the tree . . . very early Christmas morning.

"Tommy and Sue have outgrown their toys . . . and entwined their hearts with grown-up joys . . . that little ol' Santa, propped under the tree, symbolizes Christmas—at Christmas ought to be . . . with toys for children, good will among men . . . on earth, Peace dawning."

Dorothea Waltmann

Christmas Minus a Santa Claus

Do you believe in Santa Claus? The children of Middle America never heard of old Saint Nick, even though their holiday celebration compares happily and merrily to their own.

Picnics and outdoor excursions are traditional events of the day. For Christmas comes in mid-summer weather there. Weeks before the holiday, families in El Salvador, Mexico and Panama prepare tiny clay or wooden figures for the creche which most homes display during the universal holiday.

In Guatemala, Costa Rica and Cuba, images of the Virgin are carried through the streets. Christmas celebrations and customs vary in the ten republics which comprise Middle America—Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Children of Provence, France, reverently recite the following prayer before the Christmas cribs in that vicinity:

Little Jesus of the Crib—
Give us the virtues of those who surround you.
Make us as philosophical as the fisherman,
Carefree as the drummer,
Merry for exploring the world as the troubadour,
Eager for work as the bugler,
Patient as the spinner,
Kind as the ass,
Strong as the ox which keeps you warm.
Give us the sacred leisure of the hunter.
Give us also the desire of the Shepherd for earthly things.
The pride of the trader of the knife grinder and the weaver,
The song of the miller.
Give us the knowledge of the Magi.
The cheerfulness of the penguin,
The impulsiveness of the cock,
The discretion of the snail,
The meekness of the lamb.
Give us the goodness of bread,
The tenderness of the wild boar,
The salt of the haddock,
The good humor of old wine,
The ardor of the candle,
The purity of a star.
Propriety of a few of the metaphors may be disputed, nevertheless, nostalgia prompts speculation regarding a world of humanitarianism endowed with the virtues so earnestly and innocently enumerated by the little ones.

Employment

Girls between 18 and 30 years, interested in specialized
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THURSDAY DECEMBER 12, 1946

THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN, APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

STAR OF THE EAST

Star of the East, that long ago
Brought wise men on their way
Where, angels singing to and fro,
The Child of Bethlehem lay—
Above the Syrian hill afar
Thou shinest out tonight, O Star!

Star of the East, the night were drear,
But for the tender grace
That with thy glory comes to cheer
Earth's loneliest, darkest place;
For by that charity we see
There is hope for all—and me.

Eugene Field

GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

ELECTRIC IRONS

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Wts. lb. .55

Walnuts, lb. .55

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Apple, each .30

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Reserves, jar .43

Quality Meat Moderate Price

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Get to remember Martin's Quality Grocery

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MAUD'S HOT SHOP

Route 460, 2 miles East of Appomattox

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

Open from 11 A. M. to 2-30 A. M.

Public Invited

Across from Camp Winonah

"Be Thou Well"

On Christmas Day

Among the happy customs of Christmas is that of drinking a wish for health and happiness to the assembled guests—the early name used was "wassail."

The name "wassail" is a contraction of the middle English "waes hael," meaning "be thou well."

Wassail was usually prepared in a large wooden bowl. The base of the drink, which was cider, was placed in the bowl and other ingredients added for seasoning. It was then set on the hearth in front of a log fire and apples were tied above. As the apples began to roast, the juice dripped into the wooden bowl.

Here is a recipe for wassail today:
1 gallon cider, dash of grenadine, 6 egg whites, separated and whipped. Add allspice, cinnamon, crushed cloves to suit and one pint of milk or cream.

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Only 10 shopping days are left before Christmas.

LEE THEATRE

THE SHOWPLACE OF APPOMATTOX

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Friday, Saturday, December 13, 14

Jimmy Wakely in—

LONESOME TRAIL

ALSO

HER KIND OF MAN

Monday and Tuesday, December 16, 17

George Brent, Lucille Ball in—

LOVER COME BACK

Wednesday, Thursday, December 18, 19

TOMORROW THE WORLD

ADEQUATE WIRING SERVES and SAVES

A. C. RANSON

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Appomattox, Virginia

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CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

AROUND THE WORLD

The custom of ringing a joyous peal of bells on Christmas morning has been for ages a feature of the Christmas celebration. In many countries, however, the bells ring on Christmas Eve, for according to the old church usage the real beginning of Christmas was at sunset on Christmas Eve. Christmas bells tell us that once, long ago, on a Christmas day love came into the world, flooding the earth with beauty and goodness, when the angels sang about a crib in Bethlehem.

The pagan Romans were the first to utilize Christmas greens for decorative purposes. They decorated growing evergreens with tiny masks to insure fertility. The progress from this pagan practice to the modern Christian use is hidden in unproven theories. Because of their unchanging freshness, evergreens were considered a symbol of eternity. The circle, without and was an emblem of the same symbol. Mistletoe was held in veneration by the ancient Celts and Teutons.

The giving of gifts was instituted by St. Nicholas, who was first considered an ascetic in Europe, when he appeared as an oldster with white beard, on horseback, carrying gifts for good children, switches for bad ones. Peleus, from the demon world would accompany him, clad in a fur coat and carrying a switch. St. Nicholas, or Nicholas, was bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, in the fourth century. He is patron saint of Greece, Russia, and the city of Naples.

Burning of the Yule log was a symbol of the return of the sun. The log was dragged ceremoniously to the family hearth, where it was drenched with wine and kindled with a brand saved from the preceding year. When flames crackled forth it portended good luck for the coming year. If the log did not light it was believed to be an omen of ill luck. The "Feast of the Returning Sun" was an ancient pagan festival, observed by many peoples.

Feasting on Christmas today is pallid compared to what it was in days gone by. Turkey was first introduced in England about 1520 and as a mild substitute for the traditional boar's head garlanded with rosemary and laurel. The exotic roasted peacock was also a favorite at early feasts. Mince pie was eaten in the 16th century as a symbol of the riches brought by the three wise men. It was filled with rich spices and products brought from the mysterious far East.

Christmas boxes for the poor did not originate in America. They date back to the days of the ancient Romans. They held a feast in honor of Saturn. Boxes were made up and distributed. This has become an important part of Christmas in this country and the plan has been developed and enlarged by religious, civic and other organizations in order to bring happiness to hundreds of thousands who would otherwise be overlooked at Christmas. Boxing Day is a legal holiday.

There are nearly as many versions of Santa Claus as there are nationalities: Father Christmas, St. Nicholas, Babushko, Kris Kringle and many others. But regardless of his name, he is welcomed and beloved by all—children and adults alike. In America Santa Claus is still recognized by the original drawing of Thomas Nash, made to illustrate Dr. Clement Clark Moore's poem, "A Visit to St. Nicholas."

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